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Conference Abstract

Game of Tops: Trends in GBIF's Community of Users

Nora Escribano‡, David Galicia‡, Arturo H. Ariño‡

‡ University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Corresponding author: Nora Escribano (nescribano@alumni.unav.es)

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Abstract

Building on the development of Biodiversity Informatics, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) undertook the task of enabling access to the world's wealth of biodiversity data via the Internet. To date, GBIF has become, in many respects, the most extensive biodiversity information exchange infrastructure in the world, opening up a full range of possibilities for science.

Science has benefited from such access to biodiversity data in research areas ranging from the effects of environmental change on biodiversity to the spread of invasive species, among many others. As of this writing, more than 7,000 published items (scientific papers, reviews, conference proceedings) have been indexed in the GBIF Secretariat's literature tracking programme.

On the basis on this database, we will represent trends in GBIF in the users' behaviour over time regarding openness, social structure, and other features associated to such scientific production: what is the measurable impact of research using GBIF data? How is the GBIF community of users growing? Is the science made with, and enabled by, open data, actually open? Mapping GBIF users' choices will show how biodiversity research is evolving through time, synthesising past and current priorities of this community in an attempt to forecast whether summer—or winter—is coming.

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Keywords

GBIF, biodiversity, data users, research trends, community structure

Presenting author

Nora Escribano

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